



"You see the distress that we are in. Come, let us rebuild the walls . . . that we may no longer be a reproach." Nehemiah 2:17

February 28, 1997

The Hon. Ernest Istook
U.S. House of Representatives
119 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Istook:

I am President of the national ministry, WallBuilders. Our organization, which includes almost one-hundred-fifty thousand citizens among its direct supporters, and hundreds of Sates legislators and leaders, is dedicated to rebuilding and protecting the religious and family values on which America was founded, and which, for so long, were embraced in our public policy.

Thank you for your leadership and vision on the "Religious Freedom Amendment"—a long-awaited opportunity for millions of Americans. Your amendment will again secure their genuine "free exercise of religion," and will reverse the religious hostility now so evident in the federal courts, ending their micro-management of religious activities.

I applaud the scope of the protections you have provided in your amendment, ranging from securing freedom of conscience to forbidding religion-based discrimination, from securing public religious speech and expressions to protecting voluntary student religious exercises. Certainly, you know that you have much public support behind you as recent polls have shown 74 percent of the nation supporting a constitutional amendment explicitly protecting school prayer, and 73 percent supporting explicit wording to protect public religious acknowledgments (Luntz Research Companies, January 16-21, 1996).

Be assured that you have our complete and unwavering support for you amendment and the protections it encompasses. We are at your service in helping secure the passage of this wonderful and necessary constitutional amendment.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. You are a genuine friend to and champion for people of faith everywhere! May God continue to prosper you and your endeavors for Him! God bless!

In prayer that our government will once again be upon *His* shoulders, and that we will again become one nation *under* God, I remain,

David Barton

"The propitious [favorable] smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation which disregards the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained." GEORGE WASHINGTON